



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

DAVID A. RAYMOND  
PRESIDENT & CEO

May 19, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Minority Leader Boehner:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry -- we urge the House to support the extensions in HR 6049, the Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008 of expiring tax provisions that encourage the development of renewable energy sources and promote energy efficiency. Consistent and predictable federal support for the implementation of renewable energy technologies is crucial to the development of alternative energy infrastructure in the private sector and throughout the economy.

ACEC represents 5,700 independent engineering companies that are directly engaged in the development of America’s infrastructure, and play a particularly critical role in the effort to improve the nation’s water and energy infrastructure. ACEC member firms represent the broad spectrum of the industry, from very large firms to small, family-owned businesses. Overall, our members employ well over 300,000 people throughout the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Founded in 1910 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations.

As you know, renewable energy sources continue to grow in importance in the country’s energy portfolio. Since 2001, wind power in the U.S. has grown 550 percent and photovoltaic solar power has grown by 525 percent; overall, renewable power has nearly doubled. The U.S. led the world in new wind capacity in 2006 and 2007 and currently leads the world in geothermal electricity generation. Such progress has been made in large part due to federal incentives for production and development.

We also support an extension of energy efficiency incentives that assist businesses to use energy efficient building techniques, materials and equipment. These include the energy efficient commercial buildings deduction and the five-year depreciation period for qualified time-based electricity meters, both of which help to lessen the nation’s electricity load and reduce air pollution impacts.

We strongly urge you to work to pass bi-partisan legislation extending the expiring renewable energy and energy efficiency tax credits as quickly as possible so that long-term financing can be obtained and on-going efforts are not interrupted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David A. Raymond